

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01081 032342Z

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ACTION EA-10

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB AND AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, VN, VS

SUBJ: CATHOLIC STATEMENT ON VIETNAM REFUGEE EFFORTS

1. MONSIGNOR MCCARRICK OF NEW YORK ARCHDIOCESE HAS MADE AVAILABLE FIRST DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED BY CARDINAL COOKE, AND POSSIBLY IN NAME OF ENTIRE US CATHOLIC HIERARCHY, MORNING OF APRIL 4.

2. DRAFT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

WE ARE REASSURED BY THE STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD YESTERDAY PLEDGING THE FULL COOPERATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST IN THE EVACUATION OF WAR ORPHANS AND THE ABANDONED CHILDREN OF SOUTH VIETNAM. WE PLEDGE THE UTMOST CONTINUING EFFORT OF THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND, INDEED, OF THE ENTIRE AMERICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TO MEET THIS URGENT HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TODAY CARE FOR MORE THAN 4,000 ADOPTABLE ORPHANED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THESE CHILDREN TO BE FLOWN TO THE US WHERE HOMES AND HEARTS ARE OPEN TO THEM AND THAT IT WILL SHOW TO THEM THE SAME GENEROSITY THAT OUR GOVERNMENT AFFORDED REFUGEES FROM CUBA AND HUNGARY.

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AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT OF SUFFERING AND FAMILY DISRUPTION IN
SOUTH VIETNAM, WE URGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE LEADERS
OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO USE ALL THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO
PURSUADE THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO PERMIT THE
HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF NATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO
BRING RELIEF TO THESE MASSES OF REFUGEES AND TO ALLOW THEM TO
REACH PLACES OF SAFETY.

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